

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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AMCONGEN JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1632

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA EGEN

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO U.S. POSITIONS AT SPECIAL UNGA SESSION

SUMMARY: THERE WAS REMARKABLE UNANIMITY THAT AMBASSADOR SCALI'S STATEMENT AFTER ADOPTION WITHOUT VOTE OF "NON-CONSENSUS" DOCUMENT MAY 1 WAS EXTREMELY TOUGH. EMPHASIZING EITHER SCALI'S COMMENTS ON PROCEDURE, RESERVATIONS OR BOTH, DELEGATIONS SYMPATHETIC TO ALGERIAN POSITION TENDED TO CONSIDER IT SOMEWHAT CONFRONTATIONAL. HOWEVER, WEO'S PLUS SOME MODERATE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY SOME OF MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED, EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF APPRECIATION OF SCALI'S READINESS TO TALK FRANKLY OF REAL PROBLEMS.

1. UK REPS WERE VERY POSITIVE TOWARD SCALI'S STATEMENT. UK PERM REP RICHARD HIMSELF TOOK SIMILAR BUT SOMEWHAT SOFTER LINE IN DETAILING UK RESERVATIONS. (KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LINE ENCOURAGED UK AND OTHERS TO STIFFEN THEIR STAND.) WE ALSO HEARD THAT MEMBER OF UK MISSION HAD ARGUED ABOUT WHETHER OUR SHORT-LIVED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN INEPT FUMBLE OR AN EXTREMELY

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CLEVER TACTICAL PLAY. OTHER WEO'S EXPRESSED FAVORABLE

ATTITUDES TOWARD SCALI'S SPEECH. CANADIANS AND NORWEGIANS FOUND FINAL PORTION OF SCALI'S STATEMENT FORTHCOMING AND POSITIVE. AUSTRIAN REPS THOUGHT STATEMENT INCLUDED MANY ELEMENTS "THAT NEEDED SAYING" AND SAID MANY DELEGATIONS WERE PRIVATELY APPLAUDING US AS ONE UN MEMBER THAT COULD AFFORD TO SPEAK UP FREELY. MCINTYRE OF AUSTRALIA SPOKE FAVORABLY OF US STATEMENT BUT FELT US WOULD HAVE HAD GREATER IMPACT HAD USUN BEEN INSTRUCTED PRESENT ITS INITIATIVE AT EARLIER STAGE. JAPANESE REFERRED COURTEOUSLY TO US STATEMENT. HOWEVER NUMBER TWO IN JAPANESE MISSION VOLUNTEERED SEVERAL NEGATIVE COMMENTS REFLECTING DOUBT WE DEMONSTRATED MUCH RESPECT FOR UN, FOUND OUR FINAL POSITION IN AD COMMITTEE MEETING UNCLEAR AND GENERALLY CRITICIZED US FOR NOT HAVING MAINTAINED MORE CONSISTENT POSTURE.

2. WE HAVE HEARD LITTLE REACTION FROM SOVIET UNION AND EE'S ONE SOVIET OFFICER SHOWED SOME CURIOSITY ABOUT US MOTIVES AND DECISION NOT TO DEMAND VOTE. YUGOSLAVIA EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT US HAD "PERMITTED CONSENSUS." ONE YUGOSLAV OFFICER THOUGHT OUR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL WAS "EXCELLENT, SKILLFULLY PRESENTED" AND WITHDRAWN AT RIGHT MOMENT.

3. AMERICAN REPUBLICS' REACTION INCLUDED NOTABLY HIGH PROPORTION OF NEGATIVE REACTIONS. COLOBIANS AND ECUADORIANS WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL AND CHILEAN REP TOLD US MANY LA'S CONSIDERED STATEMENT "TOTALLY NEGATIVE" AND VERY DISAPPOINTING. PARAGUAYAN REPS SAID US HAD EFFECTIVELY WIPE OUT PROSPECTS THAT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION COULD BE PROTRAYED AS SUCCESS. COSTA RICANS WERE ONLY LATINS TO PRAISE SPEECH UNEQUIVOCALLY. PANAMANIAN REP WAS EQUIVOCAL. TRINIDADIAN AMB DID NOT ARGUE WITH SUBSTANCE OUR STATEMENT BUT SAID IT TOO HARSH AND NEGATIVE IN TONE. BARBADIANS AND GUYANESE REPS PRAISED US STATEMENT FOR REALISM, FOR FAVORING CONCRETE RAPID ACTION, AND FOR SAYING THINGS "ONLY US COULD AFFORD TO SAY." HAITIAN AMB SICLAIT WAS ALSO FAVORABLY, SAYING US POSTURE CONCILIATORY, FAIR AND BEST-FOOT FORWARD. INTELLIGENT, USUALLY FAIR-MINDED ARGENTINIAN REP SHARPLY CRITICIZED US "ELEVENTH HOUR" EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL AS APPARENT EFFORT TO DESTROY THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY.

4. AFRICAN REACTIONS WERE FREQUENTLY NEGATIVE, ALTHOUGH MODERATE SUCH AS LIBERIAN AND MALIAN REP AVOIDED CRITICISM.
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TUNISIAN PERM REP DRISS OBJECTED STRONGLY TO "INFLEXIBLE" TONE OF SPEECH, BUT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WE SUBJECT TO DOMESTIC PRESSURES. SENEGALESE PERM REP FALL THOUGHT US ENTIRELY NEGATIVE. AN OAU REP TYPIFIED LACK OF FOCUS AMONG SEVERAL AFRICANS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE, WITH HIS VAGUELY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US HAD BEEN NEGATIVE; HE WAS UNABLE TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT OUR NEGATIVISM AND WAS SURPRISINGLY UNAWARE OF POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN US POSITION. MALAGASY PERM REP WAS AMONG THOSE EXPRESSING STRONG

SUSPICION OF US ATTITUDES, PARTICULARLY US MOTIVES IN LATE AND ABORTIVE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE. GABON, NIGERIA, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA (MIXED BAG) ALL VOICED ADMIRATION FOR OUR "COURAGEOUS" FORTHRIGHTNESS IN CALLING ATTENTION TO ALGERIAN STEAMROLLER, WHICH THEY IMPLIED HAD FLATTENED THEIR DELEGATIONS. CHOICEST AFRICAN QUOTE WAS THAT OF NIGERIAN REP WHO SAID "ALL THESE WORDS ARE GOOD TO EAT, BUT THEY TASTE BEST AFTER A BOWL OF RICE. WE AFRICANS KNOW WHO IS OFFERING US WORDS AND WHO FOOD."

5. MOST EXTENSIVE ARAB REACTION HEARD SO FAR WAS THAT OF IRAQI AMB EL EHBIB. BOTH DR. KISSINGER'S POSITIVE SPEECH AND OUR EVENTUAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN TOO LATE TO HAVE MAXIMUM EFFECT. HE APPRECIATED CONCILIATORY US ATTITUDE WHICH HE THOUGHT HAD FINALLY EMERGED BUT THOUGHT US POSITIVISM HAD COME TOO LATE TO COUNTER THIRD WORLD POSITIONS AND PRODUCE CONSTRUCTIVE COMPROMISE PACKAGE IN SUCH A BRIEF SESSION. JORDANIAN REP ALSO PRESENT CONCURRED GENERALLY IN SHIBIB'S OBSERVATIONS AND ADDED AN EXPRESSION OF OPTIMISM THAT "US ATTITUDE OF COMPROMISE" DURING SESSION WAS OMEN OF COOPERATION IN FUTURE. LEBANESE WERE PERHAPS MOST GENEROUS OF ARABS IN THEIR COMMENTS ON US STATEMENT. BOTH AMB GHORRA AND COUNSELOR MAHMASSANI PRAISED SCALI'S SPEECH FOR HONESTY BUT INDICATED THEY THOUGHT IT VERY TOUGH IN TONE. GHORRA COUNSELLED US NOT TO OVERLOOK FACT THAT SPECIAL GA REFLECTED GENUINE AND IMPORTANT SHIFT IN MANY COUNTRIES THINKING OF WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER. IN HIS VIEW, US WOULD HAVE TO ACCOMMODATE ITSELF TO THIS CHANGE. LITTLE OCCASION TO DISCUSS SESSION IN DEPTH WITH EGYPTIANS AND OTHER ARABS IN LAST DAY OR TWO. IT IS PERHAPS NOTEWORTHY THAT NOT EVEN MOST NEGATIVE ARAB COMMENTATORS ADOPTED BITTER TONE IN COMMENTING ON US PERFORMANCE.

6. FEW ASIAN REACTIONS WE HAVE HEARD TODAY APPEARED TO VARY ACCORDING TO SEVERITY OF IMPACT OF EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES. INDIAN
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POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOLD US REP HE THOUGHT OUR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL SINCERE, ALTHOUGH MOST ASIANS WITH WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN THOUGHT OUR PURPOSE HAD BEEN TACTICAL. ACID TEST, HE CONCLUDED, WOULD COME LATER. THAI PERMREP AND MALAYSIAN DEPUTY, NEITHER USUALLY PARTICULARLY HOSTILE TO US, BOTH THOUGHT US STATEMENT UNNECESSARILY NEGATIVE IN TONE.
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